

August 2012 Weather Summary

Based on the average seasonal weather pattern for Kenai Fjords, August typically brings slightly cooler temperatures and increased rain, providing a transition away from summer conditions toward fall. However, 2012 has not mirrored the normal weather pattern perfectly, at least not in regards to this summer's precipitation. Lower than average rainfall in August resulted in a significantly lower (drier) precipitation total than the 30-year monthly normal while the average temperature for August was slightly cooler than normal. In comparison with July's record low monthly temperature and higher than average precipitation, August was slightly warmer and, surprisingly, drier than July, creating more summer-like conditions later in the season than were experienced mid-season.

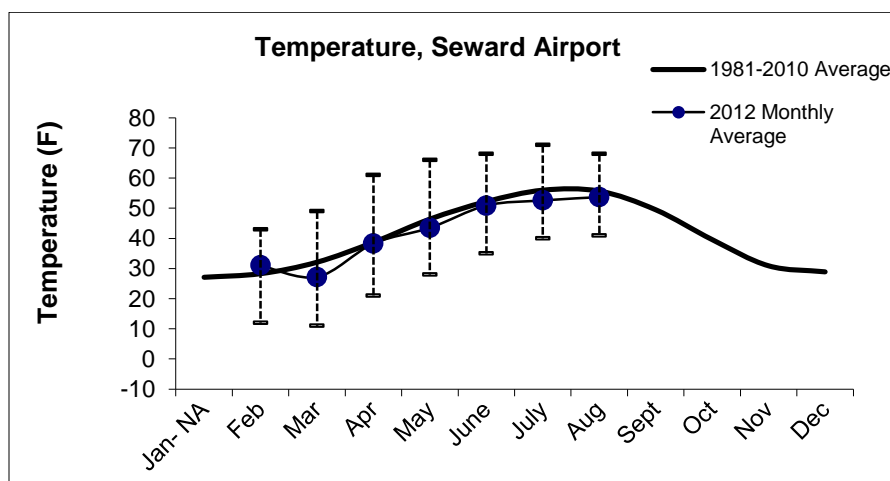
As recorded at the Seward airport, total precipitation for the month was 3.11 inches (55% of normal), 2.5 inches below the August average. The monthly average temperature was 53.7 degrees F; 2 degrees F below the 30-year August average (1981-2010). August 28th was the windiest day of the month at the Seward airport with an average wind speed of 13.2 mph. Average daily winds recorded at the Seward airport remained below 10 mph for all but four days in August.

Also of note:

- The [National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center's](#) three month weather outlook (September-October-November) favors below normal temperatures and normal precipitation for the Kenai Fjords area.
- Scientists at the University of Alaska Fairbanks published research on the cooling effects of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation in Alaska during the first decade of the 21st century in [The Open Atmospheric Science Journal](#).
- An unusually strong storm formed off the coast of Alaska in early August. To learn more about how this storm may have impacted the sea ice and to see satellite imagery of the storm center, [click here](#)
- Not only did the [Arctic sea ice extent break the 2007 record low](#) in August but, within days, it [dropped below the 4 million square kilometers](#) (1.54 million square miles) barrier that scientists predicted would not be exceeded.
- NOAA climate services portal serves as a single point-of-entry for NOAA's extensive climate information, data, products, services, and the climate science magazine [ClimateWatch](#).

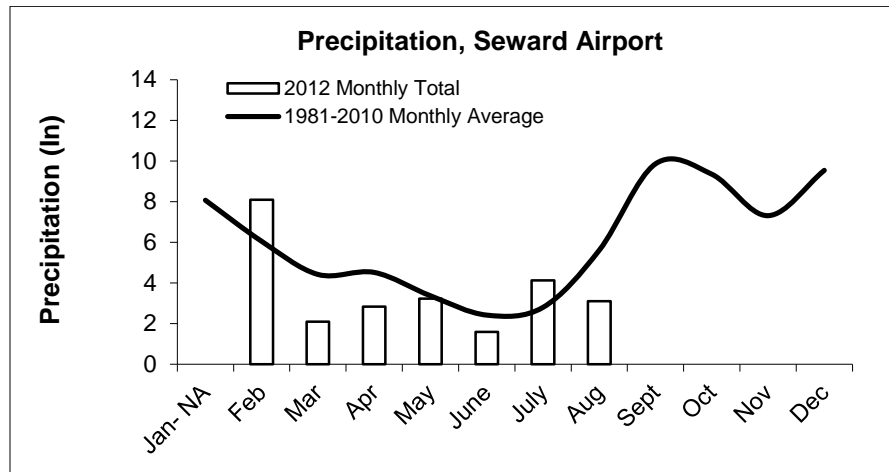
Read more to find out about the local climate for August 2012

Seward Airport Temperature, August 2012 (station 26438)



Monthly and 30-year average temperature (F) at Seward airport. 2012 monthly average values are shown with thin solid line. The range of maximum and minimum daily temperatures for each month are shown with dashed vertical lines. So far, temperatures in 2012 are following the annual trend line, although at slightly decreased temperatures.

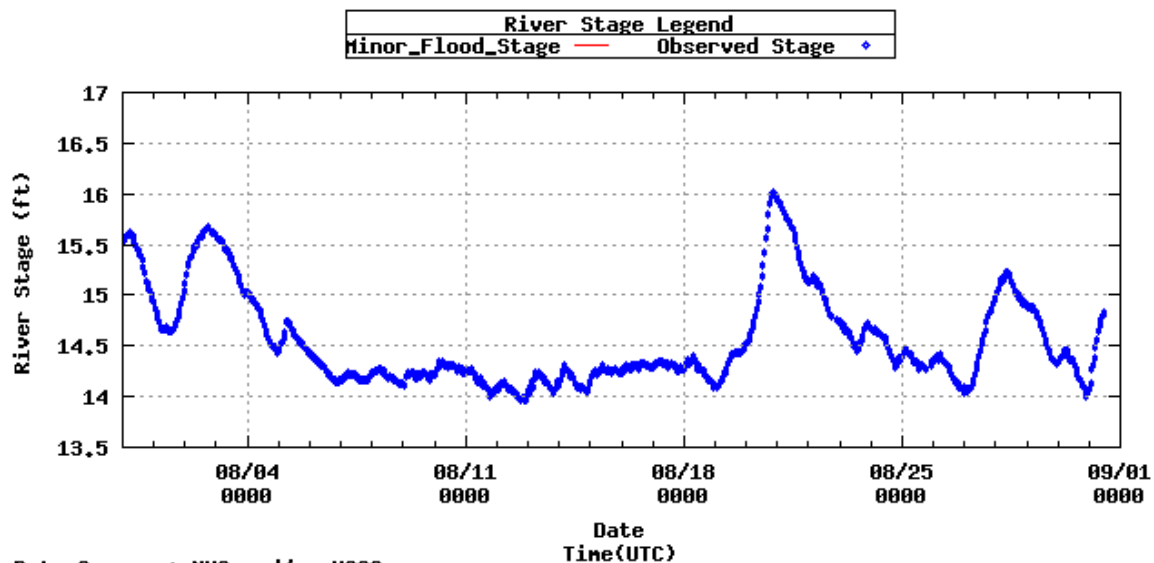
Seward Airport Precipitation, August 2012 (station 26438)



Monthly and 30-year average precipitation (inches) at Seward airport. August was on par with most of the year with below average precipitation. Note how differently the 2012 annual pattern is compared to the 30 year average trend line.

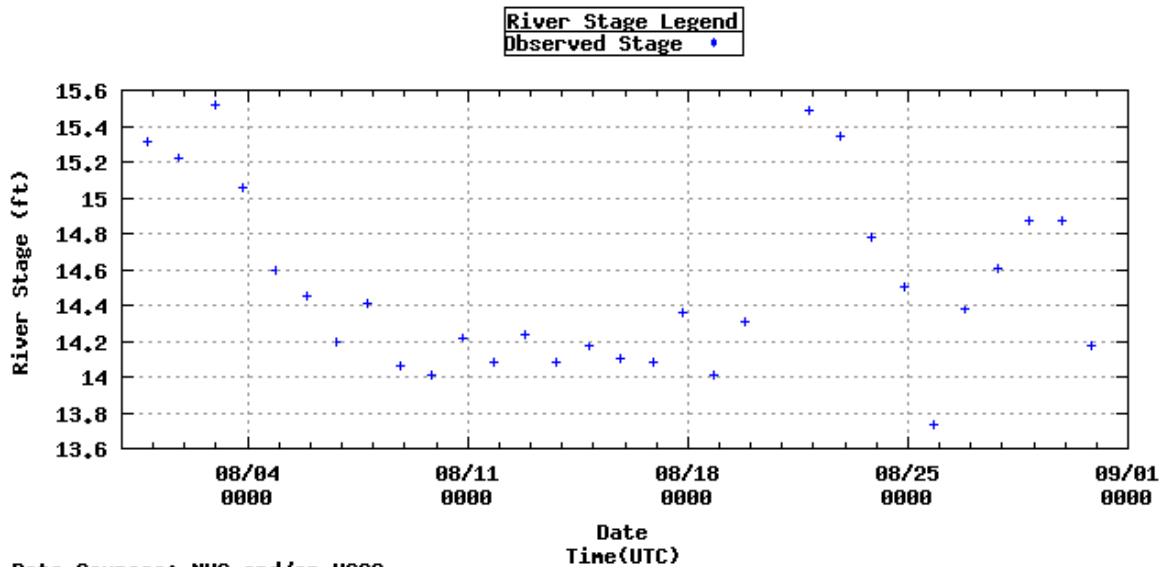
Rivers

Station
River: RESURRECTION RIVER Location: Resurrection River at Exit Glacier Bridge
lat: 60.20 lon: 149.59 Minor FLOOD STAGE: 17.5 feet
Plot created: Fri Aug 31 13:01:22 UTC 2012



Resurrection River at Exit Glacier Bridge is monitored by the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center: <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=pafc>. Forecasts for the Resurrection River at Exit Glacier Bridge are issued during the warm season and as needed at other times of the year.

Station
 River:EXIT GLACIER STREAM Location:Exit Glacier nr Visitors Center
 lat:60.19 lon:149.62 Minor FLOOD STAGE:Not Available
 Plot created: Fri Aug 31 13:00:26 UTC 2012



Exit Creek water level (stage height) data is only collected during the summer, beginning in May.
 2012 marks the first year since 2008 that Exit Creek did not cause mid-summer road closures due to flooding. This may be a result of cooler than normal temperatures resulting in slower summer melt rates on Exit Glacier and the Harding Icefield.

Weather Station data (map of [some] stations [Western Region Climate Center](#) or [MesoWest](#))

[Seward Airport](#)
[Grouse Crk Divide](#)
[Exit Glacier SNOTEL](#)
[McArthur Pass](#)
[Pilot Rock](#)

[Seward Hwy MP#12](#)
[Exit Glacier](#)
[Harding Icefield](#)
[Nuka Glacier](#)
[Buoy 76-Cape Cleare](#)

[Pedersen Lagoon](#)

Weather Forecasts

[Seward Summary](#)
[Marine Forecast](#)
[Surface Map](#)
[Graphical Forecast](#)
[4-8 Day Forecast](#)